

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-10 /072 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0493

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ELTN, WB, GE, GW, UR

SUBJECT: BERLIN TRANSIT ROUTE IMPROVEMENTS

REFS: A. USBERLIN 242; B. BONN 2533

1. SUMMARY: SENAT INFORMED BY GDR THAT TELTOW CANAL
WILL ONLY BE NEGOTIATED WITH WEST BERLIN AND NOT FRG.
GDR NOW APPEARS WILLING TO BEGIN GAUS-NEIR NEGOTIATIONS
IN EARNEST. GDR STILL INTERESTED IN SELLING
ELECTRICITY TO WEST BERLIN BUT APPARENTLY WILL NOT
STAND IN WAY OF KALININGRAD PROJECT. END SUMMARY:

2. GDR FONOFF OCCIAL AND VISITS COMMISSIONER
JOACHIM MITDANK LUNCHEDED WITH SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF
HERZ AND SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN STRUVE ON FEB 12. HERZ
SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFO TO
SENAT LIASON OFFICER:

A. CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION HERZ HAD AS RECENTLY AS
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FEB11, IT NOW APPEARS THAT GDR WANTS TO CONCLUDE

PRELIMINARY TALKS AND BEGIN ACTUAL GAUS-NIER NEGOTIATIONS ASAP.

B. MITDANK CONFIRMED THAT GDR IS NOT WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH FRG ON REOPENING OF TELTOW CANAL. (GERZ HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR WORD FROM GAUS ON FEB 11.) WHILE MITDANK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS MIGHT BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AT GAUS-NIER LEVEL, HERZ DID NOT EXPECT GDR TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. MITDANK NOTED THAT GDR HAS NUMBER OF BK/OS WHICH ALLIES ISSUED GOVERNING WATERWAYS IN WEST BERLIN AND OBSERVED THAT SUCH REGULATIONS WERE UNCHANGED BY QA. MITDANK ADDED THAT WERE FRG TO NEGOTIATE ON TELTOW CANAL, THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE CHANGE AND HENCE VIOLATION OF QA. MITDANK DECLARED THAT GDR IS READY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SENAT AT ANY TIME ON TELTOW CANAL, EVEN THOUGH ITS REOPENING WOULD CAUSE EAST GERMANS SOME PROBLEMS. (HERZ INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN CHANGES IN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.) EAST GERMAN TEAM WOULD BE HEADED BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR TRAFFIC (WATERWAYS). (HERZ TOLD LIAISON OFFICER HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL IN RESPONSE TO THIS INFO BUT SAID THAT IF SENAT IS AUTHORIZED BY ALLIES TO NEGOTIATE WITH GDR ON TELTOW CANAL, TEAM LEADER WILL BE SENATSDIREKTO SCHROEDER FROM DEPARTMENT BUILDING-HOUSING, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATERWAYS MATTERS.) MITDANK ADDED THAT GDR IS AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATING TRANSIT MATTERS AND HENCE AT CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON TELTOW CANAL WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS HOW IT FITS IN WITH PROPOSALS BEING NEGOTIATED WITH FRG.

C. MITDANK ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF REPLY TO GDR'S OFFER TO SELL ELECTRICITY TO WEST BERLIN. HERZ INFORMED HIM THAT PROPSAL UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY BEWAG (BERLIN'S SEMI-PUBLIC UTILITIES ORGANIZATION) AND THAT A REPLY WILL BE GIVEN TO GDR AT INNER-GERMAN TRADE TALKS BEFORE NEXT LEIPZIG FAIR. MITDANK ALSO MENTIONED KALININGRAD PROJECT TO SUPPLY WEST BERLIN AND FRG WITH ELECTRICITY FROM FRG-BUILD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN

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SOVIET UNION. IN WHAT HERZ ASSUMED WAS REFERENCE TO AN EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS TO PERMIT POWER LINES TO TRANSIT GDR, MITDANK TOLD HERZ THAT EAST GERMANY "KNOWS ITS OBLIGATIONS AND WILL FULFILL THEM."

D. MITDANK ALSO REFERRED TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRG ON IMPROVEMENTS OF RAIL ACCESS. HE SAID GDR WILLING NEGOTIATE SUCH IMPROVEMENTS UP TO BORDERS OF WEST

BERLIN; IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN WEST BERLIN WOULD HAVE TO
BE NEGOTIATED BY SENAT.

E. MITDANK ALSO PROPOSED EXCHANGES OF TECHNICAL
INFO BETWEEN SENAT AND GDR ON PROJECTS, SUCH AS FUTURE
SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER, WHERE THERE MIGHT BE AVOIDABLE
CONFLICTS IN PLANNING. HERZ TOLD LIAISON OFFICER THIS WAS
EXTREMELY INTERESTING PROPOSAL BECAUSE GDR HAS ALWAYS
AVOIDED SUCH EXCHANGES OF INFO. HERZ ADMITTED THAT
CARE WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO
ENDLESS ISSUE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR. GEORGE

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